

The Honourable Visitours appointed by both
houses of Parliament for the regulating and reforming
of the Vniversity of Oxford.

Petition of your Freinds and Servants in the said Vniversity.

Humbly Sheweth,

That divers learned and civill men have been much importuned, and some of them seduced (under pretence of maintaining the old Prelacy and Liturgy) to enter into a kinde of Confederacy Doctor Fell, and his Delegates, to oppose all Reformers, both the Clergy, and Visitours, and hinder a just and necessary Reformation. We doe not deny that some of us are exercised with doubts, but desire to communicate our speciall scruples to you in an humble and private way; We will not conspire together to excuse the errours, and abuses of other men, who are as yet (to the great dishonour and disgrace of our Common-Mother the Vniversity) of the same body with us. consider that to oppose you our much honour'd Visitours, is to rebel against the Houses: to maintaine Prelacy is to uphold Tyranny; to contend for the Common-Prayer-Booke is to contend for a false translation of the Canonicall Scriptures, to magnifie those booke that are not Canonicall, and justifie the Court of Rome, not onely in admitting dangerous Ceremonies to corrupt the purity, but in submitting to the Roman Order, which would overthrow the piety of our Common publique service.

We are bold therefore to remonstrate that whatever is propounded and delivered by the pretended Delegates aforesaid, as the sence of the whole Vniversity contrary to this Petition, is contrary both to our sence and consciences; And our humble request is, that you judge not of this Vniversity by the rage and confederacy of some Malignants in it, who would endanger the whole body to save themselves, and have therefore conspired to set up this Delegacy to seduce and corrupt the unsettled, to oppose the Visitation, and hinder the Reformation of this place. Be pleased to command every man to plead his owne cause, and speake for himselfe, onely punish the Heads and Ringleaders of this Rebellious conspiracy, and pardon all seduced Schollers, who upon better information, and more mature deliberation, shew that they have erred out of meere simplicity, and doe not hate to be reformed.

The Protestation of the *Well-affected* against the *Dis-affected* Delegacy.

W^Ee the Masters, Schollers, and other Officers of the
niversitie of Oxford (understanding that there is a De-
legacy set up here in Oxford without any Right author-
for the upholding of the old English Prelacy and Liturgy in o-
position to the Parliament) doe by these presents solemnly pro-
test against the said Delegacy and their pretended Vice-Chan-
cellour Doctor *Fell*, because he is neither deputed by our lawfull
Chancellour the Earle of Pembroke, nor elected by this Univer-
sity for to governe it for this yeare, and therefore is no way au-
thorized to call or hold a Convocation as Vice-Chancellour
Oxford. And the Delegacy chosen by the Assembly of Doctor
and Masters upon the first of June last, is not to be reputed a fit
tuble Delegacy, they being not orderly called or legally enabled
to plead as Delegates in the behalfe of the whole University: I
witnesse whereof we subscribe our names this third day
June, 1647.

MARCH 31. 1648.

At the Committee of the Lords and Commons for the
Reformation of the University of Oxford.

Ordered,

THAT for an Effectuall Remedy none of those that have beene
shall be convicted to have denied or resisted the Power and Au-
thority of Parliament in the Visitation of the University of O-
xford, shall be admitted to vote, or to give voice in the Convocation
Congregation of that University.

Francis Rou